



LODI POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gary Benincasa, Chief of Police

215 West Elm Street
Lodi, CA 95240
209-333-6727 (Dispatch)
209-333-5515 (Fax)
www.lodi.gov/police

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date and Time: May 4, 2010 0645

Subject: Armed and Dangerous Suspect

LPD Case #: 10-3056

Details: At approximately 1:35 am a Lodi Police officer stopped a vehicle for a minor traffic violation. The officer got the driver's identification and returned to his patrol unit to complete a citation. Unbeknownst to the driver and his two passengers a second Lodi Police officer had arrived and was watching them. The second officer saw the driver, Leon Garcia, retrieve a handgun from between the seats and began laughing. Leon Garcia was holding the gun in a manner to suggest he was waiting for the first officer to return to his (Garcia's) vehicle. The second officer took a defensive posture and ordered Leon Garcia to drop the gun. Leon Garcia and his passengers were startled to see the second officer and rapidly fled in Garcia's vehicle.

Lodi Police officers and California Highway Patrol officers pursued Leon Garcia for approximately 23 miles, which ended in the unincorporated town of Thornton (San Joaquin County). Leon Garcia abandoned his vehicle and fled on foot and eluded capture. Based on the investigation, it appears that Garcia is still in possession of the handgun and is considered armed and dangerous.



Leon Garcia 01/26/87

Persons with information on this or any criminal case or activity are encouraged to call Lodi Area Crimestoppers at 209-333-6771. You may remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward.